

*BS*  
*cont*

2. (Twice Amended) A method of increasing the reaction rate of an organic synthesis reaction that proceeds using OH<sup>-</sup>, which comprises performing the organic synthesis reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of any basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C with a reaction time of 10-400 seconds, utilizing a supply of OH<sup>-</sup> from said water.

Please add new Claims 19-20 as follows:

*BS*

--19. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the alcohol is benzyl alcohol, the carboxylic acid is benzoic acid, and the aldehyde is benzaldehyde.

*QACI*

20. (New) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the alcohol is benzyl alcohol, the carboxylic acid is benzoic acid, and the aldehyde is benzaldehyde.--

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 1 and 2; and adds new Claims 19-20. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for the recitation of a "reaction time of 10-400 seconds" is found in the specification at least at page 20, line 23. Support for new Claims 19-20 is found in the specification at least at page 14, "Scheme 1". No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-20 will be pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent.